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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6762

RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 0562

RUEHNL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 2467

RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

RUESKH/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 1472

RUEHCR/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 1846

ZEN/AMCONSUL PERTH POUCH

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S E C R E T CANBERRA 04197

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E.O. 12065: RDS-3 5/3/12 (NESEN, R. C.) OR-P

TAGS: PEPR, OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), AS, US

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA:

- WRAPUP.

REF: CANBERRA 4196

1. ENTIRE TEXT SECRET.

2. SUMMARY. THE VICE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 29 - MAY 2 VISIT TO AUSTRALIA WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS ON SUBSTANTIVE SIDE, STRENGTHENING THE ALREADY SOLID TIES BETWEEN THE FRASER GOVERNMENT AND THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION (CANBERRA 4196). PRIME MINISTER FRASER EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL DEEP SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT TO THE AMEMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS. ONLY IRRITANT WAS ALF LEADER BILL HAYDEN'S GIVING THE PRESS SKEWED VERSION OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT, BUT IN FRASER'S WORDS AND EMBASSY ASSESSMENT THIS TACTIC HELPED OVERALL RELATIONSHIP, VISIT ITSELF, VICE PRESIDENT, AND FRASER MUCH MORE THAN IT DID HAYDEN. PERSONAL WARMTH AND POPULAR SUPPORT GENERATED BY VISIT FURTHER ENHANCED ITS SUBSTANTIVE SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

3. ON ARRIVAL IN CANBERRA EVENING OF APRIL 29, VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH, IN RARE DEPARTURE FROM USUAL

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PROCEDURE, WERE GREETED AT THE AIRPORT BY PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. FRASER. (PRIME MINISTER NORMALLY ATTENDS AIRPORT ARRIVALS ONLY IF FORMAL ARRIVAL CEREMONY IS HELD AT THAT TIME.) LATER THAT EVENING PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. FRASER HOSTED INFORMAL (BUT FORMALLY ATTIRED) DINNER AT THE LODGE FOR VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH, SOME MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY, AND KEY GOA MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS. THE DINNER PROVIDED USEFUL GETTING-TO-KNOW-YOU OPPORTUNITY AND SET STAGE FOR FULL-SCALE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS THE NEXT DAY.

4. VICE PRESIDENT BEGAN APRIL 30 SCHEDULE WITH FOUR NON-SUBSTANTIVE EVENTS. AMBASSADOR HOSTED BREAKFAST AT THE RESIDENCE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT AND OFFICIAL PARTY, WITH ABOUT 50 MEMBERS OF THE CANBERRA BRANCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (AAA) AND SELECTED EMBASSY STAFF AS GUESTS. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY AND TALK TO EMBASSY STAFF AND FAMILIES ON THE RESIDENCE LAWN. FOLLOWING SHORT COUNTRY-TEAM BRIEFING ON ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE DURING THE DAY'S SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS AND PRESS ENCOUNTERS, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH, ACCOMPANIED BY AMB. AND MRS. NESEN, PAID A COURTESY CALL ON GOVERNOR GENERAL AND LADY COWEN AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE. AN IMPRESSIVE FORMAL ARRIVAL CEREMONY, WITH 19-GUN SALUTE AND REVIEW OF 50-MAN GUARD OF HONOR BY THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER, WAS HELD IN FRONT OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE PRIOR TO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND SENIOR CABINET MEMBERS AND THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION. SOME 50 ANTI-NUCLEAR DEMONSTRATORS, WITH ASSORTED BANNERS AND POSTERS, WERE PRESENT AT FORMAL CEREMONY BUT MADE NO ATTEMPT TO INTERRUPT IT.

5. THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE AMBASSADOR AND ADMIRAL MURPHY MET PRIVATELY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR BEFORE MOVING INTO CABINET ROOM FOR ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR SESSION WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL PARTY AND SENIOR CABINET MEMBERS. THE DISCUSSION AT THESE MEETINGS COVERED US-CHINA RELATIONS, US ECONOMIC POLICIES, THE VICE PRESIDENT'S STOPS IN JAPAN, KOREA AND SINGAPORE, EAST-WEST RELATIONS EUROPEAN ATTITUDES ON NUCLEAR ISSUES, THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE, AND (RAISED AT THE END BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ANTHONY) POSSIBLE US SUGAR QUOTAS AND THE DOMENICI AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD LIMIT US URANIUM IMPORTS (REPORTED SEPTIL). THERE WAS FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND PRIME MINISTER LATER EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION TO THE AMBASSADOR OVER THE SUBSTANCE AND TONE OF THE DISCUSSIONS.

6. VICE PRESIDENT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL PARTY THEN MET FOR HALF AN HOUR WITH LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION BILL HAYDEN IN HIS OFFICE IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE. HAYDEN EXPRESSED HIS CONCERNS ABOUT THE US ECONOMY AND US ECONOMIC POLICY, WHICH THE VICE PRESIDENT EXPLAINED IN SOME DETAIL; THEY THEN DISCUSSED CHINA, US-SOVIET RELATIONS, AND ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRALIA (REPORTED SEPTIL). HAYDEN LATER GAVE HIS VERSION OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT TO THE PRESS.

ENDIS

7. UPON ARRIVAL AT PRESS CLUB, VICE PRESIDENT WAS GREETED BY NOISY CROWD OF ABOUT 100 ANTI-NUCLEAR DEMONSTRATORS, URGED ON BY BULL-HORN WIELDING "CHEER-LEADERS." THE DEMONSTRATORS, WHO OBVIOUSLY WANTED MAXIMUM MEDIA

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EXPOSURE, P1 Approved For Release 2008/07/28 : CIA-RDP83B00551R000100080001-0
PRESIDENTIAL PARTY ENTERED THE PRESS CLUB. AT THE
NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON IN CANBERRA ON APRIL 30, THE
VICE PRESIDENT DID A MASTERFUL JOB OF HANDLING AGGRESSIVE
AUSTRALIAN PRESS CORPS. MUCH TO LATTER'S DISGUST, THEY
WERE UNABLE TO CREATE ANY OPENING WHICH WOULD INDICATE
POLICY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN USG AND THE FRASER GOVERNMENT.
AS VP'S MOTORCADE DEPARTED, PRESS CLUB PRESIDENT JOHN
LOMBARD, HIMSELF A WORKING JOURNALIST, TOLD EMBOFF THAT
"IF OUR POLITICIANS COULD HANDLE THE PRESS AS RESPONSIVELY
AS THE VICE PRESIDENT DID TODAY, RELATIONS BETWEEN
AUSTRALIAN PRESS AND POLITICIANS WOULD BE ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY ARE." AS INDICATION OF HOW
COMPLETELY VICE PRESIDENT WON SYMPATHY OF NON-JOURNALIST
ATTENDEES, PRESS CLUB AUDIENCE TOOK UNPRECEDENTED STEP
OF HISSING ONE JOURNALIST QUESTIONER FOR WHAT AUDIENCE
TOOK TO BE A STUPID, UNNECESSARY QUESTION. (TEXT OF VICE
PRESIDENT'S PRESS CLUB REMARKS AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
REPORTED SEPTEL.)

8. ON HIS WAY TO THE AIRPORT, THE VICE PRESIDENT LAID
A WREATH AT THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AND SIGNED THE
DISTINGUISHED VISITORS' BOOK.

9. IN SYDNEY, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH CALLED ON
GOVERNOR AND LADY ROWLAND BEFORE MEETING FOR AN HOUR WITH
NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER NEVILLE WRAN (ALP). THEIR
CORDIAL DISCUSSION (REPORTED SEPTEL) FOCUSED ON THE
PROBLEMS OF RUNNING A GOVERNMENT UNDER TIGHT BUDGET
CONSTRAINTS. THAT EVENING THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH
AND THE PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. FRASER WERE GUESTS OF
HONOR AT THE SYDNEY AAA BRANCH'S ANNUAL CORAL SEA BALL,
WHICH WAS JAM-PACKED FOR THE OCCASION.

10. IN MELBOURNE ON MAY 1, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS.
BUSH CALLED ON GOVERNOR AND LADY MURRAY. NEWLY ELECTED
VICTORIAN PREMIER CAIN (ALP), WHO PERSONALLY GREETED AND
FAREWELLED VICE PRESIDENT AT AIRPORT, MET WITH THE VICE
PRESIDENT FOR AN HOUR. CAIN STRESSED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT
WOULD FOLLOW SENSIBLE ECONOMIC POLICIES AND THAT THE USG
AND US BUSINESS WOULD FIND IT RELATIVELY EASY TO DO
BUSINESS WITH THE NEW ALP REGIME IN VICTORIA. THAT
EVENING PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. FRASER HOSTED A FORMAL
DINNER FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH, ATTENDED
BY ABOUT 500 GUESTS, AT THE HILTON HOTEL. IN HIS
PREPARED REMARKS, THE PRIME MINISTER STRONGLY SUPPORTED
US POLICIES, ESPECIALLY ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS. THE VICE
PRESIDENT IN TURN INDICATED SOLID USG SUPPORT FOR THE
FRASER GOVERNMENT. AFTER THE DINNER, DURING A DISCUSSION
WITH EMBOFF, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS EXTREMELY
SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT.

11. THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PARTY RETURNED TO SYDNEY
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DINNER. EXCEPT FOR ATTENDANCE AT
THE ANNUAL CORAL SEA MEMORIAL CHURCH SERVICE ON SUNDAY
MORNING AT THE MACQUARIE STREET UNITING CHURCH, WHERE THE
VICE PRESIDENT READ THE LESSON, SUNDAY WAS A DOWN DAY ON
THE SCHEDULE. THE PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. FRASER SAW THE
VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH OFF AT SYDNEY AIRPORT ON
MONDAY MORNING, ONCE AGAIN A DEPARTURE FROM FORMAL
PROCEDURE TESTIFYING TO THE WARMTH AND THE SUCCESS OF THE
VISIT.

12. IMPRESSIONS AND RESULTS OF VISIT REPORTED SEPTEL.

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INFO RUEHNL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 2466

RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 0561

RUEHCR/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 1845

RUESXM/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 1471

ZEN/AMCONSUL PERTH POUCH

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SECRET CANBERRA 00196

E.O. 12065: RDS-3 5/3/12 (NESEN,

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA:
ASSESSMENT

1. VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT SIGNIFICANTLY ADVANCED USG INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA BY TIGHTENING ALREADY CLOSE TIES BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND U.S. AND BETWEEN FRASER GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION, AND BY STIMULATING POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE RELATIONSHIP.

2. IN BROAD CONTEXT VICE PRESIDENT, BY HIS VISIT:
-- REAFFIRMED HIGH-LEVEL U.S. INTEREST IN AUSTRALIA AND IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO U.S.-AUSTRALIA RELATIONSHIP, TO ANZUS ALLIANCE AND TO AUSTRALIA;

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-- ARTICULATED STRONGLY AND POSITIVELY MAIN ELEMENTS OF U.S. POLICIES TO AUSTRALIAN LEADERS, MEDIA, AND PEOPLE;

-- OCCASIONED AND EXEMPLIFIED SIGNIFICANT HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATION BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES; AND

-- STRENGTHENED PERSONAL TIES AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF LEADERSHIP.

3. IN ADDITION, VISIT ACHIEVED MORE CONCRETE STEPS. SPECIFICALLY, IT

-- PROVIDED TOP-LEVEL CATEGORICAL DENIAL OF UNTOWARD CIA ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY TO OPPOSITION ALP LEADER HAYDEN, AND BECAUSE OF HAYDEN'S INDISCREET PRESS LEAK, TO MEDIA AND AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE (COMMENT: WE SEE HAYDEN'S DISCOURTESY IN LEAKING HIS OWN VERSION OF DISCUSSION AND IN PUBLICLY SCORNING ASSURANCES AS DISCREDITING ALP LEADER HAYDEN'S IMAGE AS COMPETENT AND RESPONSIBLE LEADER IN POPULAR EYE, AND WE SUSPECT AMONG SOME MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY. THIS IS NOT ONLY EMBASSY'S PERCEPTION BUT ONE SHARED BY PM FRASER HIMSELF. END COMMENT);

-- GAVE KEY SUPPORT TO OPENING OF BRISBANE TO NPWS AND TO REVIVAL OF NPW VISITS TO HOBART;

-- REVITALIZED AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES;

-- LAUNCHED USG RELATIONS WITH NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT IN VICTORIA ON AUSPICIOUS NOTE WITH CORDIAL DISCUSSIONS AND PREMIER CAIN GOING OUT OF HIS WAY TO WELCOME VICE PRESIDENT AND TO FACILITATE VISIT; AND

-- PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY ONCE AGAIN TO EXPRESS U.S. APPRECIATION FOR FRASER'S AND GOA'S SUPPORT ON KEY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

4. USUAL MEDIA ONE-EYED EMPHASIS ON FACILITIES QUESTIONS AND ON ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRALIA ARE PART OF PRICE WE HAVE TO PAY FOR RELATIONSHIP; BY UNANIMOUS ASSESSMENT THIS DID NOT DETRACT FROM MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND FAVORABLE IMPACT OF VISIT. FRASER, OTHER GOVERNMENT LEADERS, AND NORMALLY CYNICAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE STRESSED TO US THEIR VIEW OF VISIT AS "VERY, VERY SUCCESSFUL", TO QUOTE TAMIE FRASER SPEAKING PRIVATELY ON BOTH HER AND HER HUSBAND'S BEHALF.

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FAVORABLE POPULAR IMPACT TESTIFIED TO BY ALL WHO EX-
POSED TO VISIT.

5. U.S. PRIMARY GOAL IN AUSTRALIA IS TO REINFORCE
AUSTRALIA'S TRADITIONAL READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH
THE U.S. WE HAVE DEFINED MAJOR OBJECTIVES IN OUR
EFFORTS AS INCREASING ACCEPTANCE AND PERCEPTION OF U.S.
AS FAITHFUL FRIEND AND RELIABLE ALLY, AND ENSURING
OPEN AND FREE COMMUNICATION AND FULL AND EQUAL CON-
SULTATION BETWEEN US.

5. VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT PROVIDED VITAL BOOST TO OUR
AND WASHINGTON'S EFFORTS TOWARD THESE GOALS AND TO OUR
PURSUIT OF U.S. INTERESTS HERE. NESEN

END OF MESSAGE

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